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# A proposing cleanup plan for patch of contaminated land

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Morning Journal Writer

IA — The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a \$1.7 million cleanup plan for a patch of contaminated land at 142 Locust St.

Environmental Recovery Systems Inc. Russell Obitts used the land, the banks of the Black River off

East Avenue, to recycle used solvents from 1960 until 1980, when the EPA sued CRS for contamination of the land, according to the EPA.

The EPA is now proposing to excavate a portion of the site, which now has two empty buildings, and cover the rest with soil to prevent further pollution.

The EPA will work with several

companies which have been identified as responsible for the pollution to help pay for the cleanup project.

"The cleanup itself is going to take six months, but the negotiation with these responsible parties is where we lose time," said Gwen Massenburg, the project manager. "It can take anywhere from one to two years."

The EPA will have a public meet-

ing from 6 to 8 p.m. July 26 at Elyria City Hall's council chambers to discuss the plan and take public comments.

In addition to the \$1.7 million recommended cleanup plan, the EPA is offering five other proposals, ranging in cost from \$1.3 million to \$24 million.

"We've got a preferred way we

should go about doing this, but when we go through this comment period, sometimes it changes a little bit," said Massenburg. "After that, we come to a decision about what we're going to do."

Elyria currently has two of the state's 22 EPA cleanup sites. Officials are also working on a cleanup plan for an old landfill on Ford Road.

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